

VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION: 703-872-9306

TYCO 18104 (AT 20958-62)
PATENT**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed April 29, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-22 are now pending in this application, of which claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 19 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,380) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarity and now recites an electronic module comprising "an insulative housing having opposed first and second surfaces; at least one circuit board contained within said housing; a plurality of connectors coupled to said circuit board, at least some of said connectors accessible within openings extending through the first surface of said housing; at least one fuse electrically coupled to said circuit board; and an insulative fuse door sealingly engaged to the second surface of said housing and positionable with respect to said housing to provide access to said fuse from an exterior of said housing."

It is respectfully submitted that the Maue et al. junction box does not meet the recitations of the present claims.

Maue et al. describe a junction box (11) having harness connectors (27) and a hinged plastic cover (45) that are on the same side of the box. Thus, the cover (45) does not meet the recited fuse door of claim 1 that is engaged to a second surface of the connector housing opposing the exposed connectors. The lower housing (43) of Maue et al. that is situated opposite the upper housing (41) does not define a surface to which a fuse door is sealingly engaged.

Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Maue et al.

VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION: 703-872-9306

TYCO 18104 (AT 20958-62)
PATENT

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, and when the recitations of claims 2-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claims 2-9 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Maue et al.

Further, claim 2 recites that the housing comprises a connector portion defining the first surface and a cover portion sealingly engaged to said connector portion and defining the second surface. The cover portions attached to element (15) of Maue et al., cited in the Office Action as corresponding to the recited cover portion, are not part of the housing parts (41) and (43), and do not define a second surface opposite a first surface defined on a connector portion.

Claim 3 recites that the housing comprises a plurality of integrally molded connector receptacles extending outwardly from the first surface and away from the second surface. The harness connectors (27) of Maue et al. do not extend away from the surface of the housing (41) to which the cover (45) is attached. Rather, the harness connectors (27) extend in the same direction as the cover (45).

The objection to claim 4 on the ground that 0.64 GET terminal system connectors is a designation of a connector specification is respectfully traversed. Applicant clearly is not attempting to claim a connector specification, but rather connectors configured to engage 0.64 GET terminal system connectors. It is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is directed to structural attributes that would be recognized and appreciated by those in the art and familiar with the applicable standard. The reference to 0.64 GET terminal system connectors does not denote intended use, but rather evokes specific structure of a connector configured for use with such terminal system connectors. Further, nothing in the disclosure of Maue et al. indicates that connectors configured to engage 0.64 GET terminal system connectors are desirable in the Maue et al. junction box.

VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION: 703-872-9306

TYCO 18104 (AT 20958-62)
PATENT

Claim 6 recites that the fuse door includes side walls and a curved outer surface extending between the side walls. The Maue et al. cover (45) is clearly flat between the side walls thereof.

Claim 7 recites that fuse door comprises an exterior surface, at least a portion of said exterior surface being depressed relative to the second surface of said housing. The cover (45) of Maue et al. does not meet this recitation.

Claim 9 recites that the fuse door includes an upstanding handle portion being substantially flush with the second surface when the fuse door is attached thereto. The cover (45) of Maue et al. includes no such handle feature.

Claim 10 recites an electronic input/output module comprising "an insulative housing having a plurality of integrally formed connector receptacles on one side of the housing; at least one printed circuit board contained within said housing; a plurality of connectors coupled to said circuit board and extending into said connector receptacles; at least one fuse electrically coupled to said circuit board; and an insulative fuse door sealingly engaged to said housing beneath the connector receptacles and positionable to provide access to said fuse from an exterior of said housing."

The Maue et al. junction box clearly does not include a fuse door sealingly engaged to a housing beneath connector receptacles. Rather, the cover (45) of Maue et al. is attached to the housing part (41) adjacent to and alongside the harness connectors (27).

Claim 10 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Maue et al.

Claims 11-16 depend from claim 1, and when the recitations of claims 11-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claims 11-16 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Maue et al.

VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION: 703-872-9306

TYCO 18104 (AT 20958-62)
PATENT

Further, claim 11 recites that the housing comprises a connector portion and a cover portion, said connector receptacles formed in said connector portion, said fuse door coupled to said cover portion opposite said connector portion. Maue et al. does not disclose this structure.

The objection to claim 12 is respectfully traversed for the reasons noted above with respect to claim 4.

Claim 15 recites that the fuse door comprises side walls and an exterior surface, at least a portion of said exterior surface being concave in an area spaced from said side walls. The Maue et al. cover (45) is clearly flat between the side walls thereof.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of claims 1-16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Maue et al. in view of Saka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,431) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 10, which is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Maue et al. for the reasons set forth above. Saka et al. adds nothing to the teaching of Maue et al. with respect to the invention of claim 10, and does not cure the deficiencies of Maue et al. with respect to claim 10. Claim 10 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Maue et al. in view of Saka et al., and when the recitations of claims 17 and 18 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 10, claims 17 and 18 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Maue et al. in view of Saka et al.

Claim 19 recites an electronic control module comprising "an insulative housing comprising a connector portion having a plurality of integrally formed connector receptacles on an upper surface thereof, and a cover portion sealingly engaged to said connector portion opposite said connector portion; at least one printed circuit board contained within said housing; a plurality of connectors coupled to said circuit board and extending into said connector

VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION: 703-872-9306

TYCO 18104 (AT 20958-62)
PATENT

receptacles; at least one fuse electrically connected to said circuit board; and an insulative fuse door removably engaged to a lower surface of said cover portion, said fuse door having a seal providing a moisture proof barrier when said fuse door is attached to said housing."

Neither Maue et al. nor Saka et al., considered separately or in combination, disclose or suggest the module of claim 19. Neither of the references disclose a connector receptacle on an upper surface of a connector portion and an insulative fuse door removably engaged to a lower surface of the cover portion, together with the other recitations of claim 19. Rather, both references disclose electrical connection boxes having covers extending alongside and above connector portions of the devices. Thus, the references collectively fail to describe or suggest all of the elements of claim 19, arranged in the manner set forth therein.

Claim 19 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Maue et al. in view of Saka et al.

Claims 20-22 depend from claim 19, and when the recitations of claims 20-22 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 19, claims 20-22 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Maue et al.

The objection to claim 20 is respectfully traversed for the reasons noted above with respect to claim 4.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of claims 17-22 be withdrawn.

VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION: 703-872-9306

TYCO 18104 (AT 20958-62)
PATENT

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce T. Atkins
Registration No. 43,476
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070